

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 GSA-02 FEA-01

INT-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00

TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 SS-15 L-02 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 (ISO) R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ETRD

SUBJECT: TIN: DISPOSAL LEGISLATION

REF: LA PAZ 2091 (NOTAL)

1. HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE'S SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 3,
CHAIRMAN BY CONGRESSMAN BENNETT OF FLORIDA, HELD HEARINGS
MARCH 25 ON INDIVIDUAL BILLS TO AUTHORIZE DISPOSAL OF
ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS OF BERYL ORE (18,000 SHORT TONS);
SILVER (117.8 MILLION TROY OUNCES); AND TIN (100,000 LONG
TONS) FROM SURPLUS GSA STOCKPILES.

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2. HEARINGS, WHICH BEGAN WITH BERYL ORE, SOON DEVELOPED INTO DISCUSSION OF RATIONALE FOR AND PROCEDURES INVOLVED IN SETTING OF NEW, SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER STOCKPILE OBJECTIVES IN SPRING OF 1973. HEARINGS WERE THEN ADJOURNED SINE DIE AFTER CHAIRMAN BENNETT ANNOUNCED HE WISHED TO OBTAIN FURTHER WRITTEN VIEWS ON STRATEGIC STOCKPILE OBJECTIVES FROM VARIOUS EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER. SILVER AND TIN BILLS WERE NOT DISCUSSED IN ANY DETAIL AT MARCH 25 HEARINGS, ALTHOUGH CHAIRMAN BENNETT INCLUDED PREPARED STATEMENTS OF PROSPECTIVE WITNESSES IN SUBCOMMITTEE RECORD.

3. EARLIER THIS YEAR, IN INTER-AGENCY COMMENTS ON

PROPOSED STOCKPILE DISPOSAL LEGISLATION, DEPARTMENT HAD CONCURRED IN ELEVEN INDIVIDUAL DISPOSAL AUTHORIZATION BILLS, INCLUDING THREE MENTIONED ABOVE. IN CASE OF TIN, ALTHOUGH GSA STOCKPILE INVENTORY AT END FEBRUARY 1975 TOTALED 207,338 LONG TONS (LT), OF WHICH 166,738 LT WAS SURPLUS TO STOCKPILE OBJECTIVE OF 40,500 LT, ONLY 6,612 LT REMAINED AVAILABLE FOR DISPOSAL UNDER EXISTING CONGRESSIONAL DISPOSAL AUTHORITY (FY1975) GSA TIN SALES THROUGH FEBRUARY 1975 TOTALED 1,877 LT). IN ITS PREPARED STATEMENT FOR MARCH 25 HEARINGS GSA INFORMED SUBCOMMITTEE THERE NO RPT NO KNOWN US INDUSTRY OPPOSITION TO USG'S PLANS FOR TIN DISPOSAL; MAJOR US TINPLATE PRODUCER ALSO PREPARED STATEMENT AND WAS PREPARED TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF DISPOSAL LEGISLATION.

4. ABOVE INFORMATION BEING PROVIDED POSTS IN PRODUCER COUNTRY MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL TIN AGREEMENT(AND ITC IN CASE OF LONDON) IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY BE ABLE RESPOND TO ANY HOST GOVERNMENT AND/OR TIN INDUSTRY QUESTIONS RE PENDING TIN LEGISLATION. SHOULD QUESTIONS OF CONSULTATIONS ARISE, POSTS SHOULD NOTE THAT USG DOES NOT RPT NOT CONSULT ON DISPOSAL AUTHORIZATION LEGISLATION, BUT ON ACTUAL DISPOSAL PROGRAMS CONDUCTED UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY. IF AND WHEN TIN DISPOSAL AUTHORIZATION PASSED BY CONGRESS AND IF GSA PROPOSES MODIFICATION OF PRESENT LONG-TERM DISPOSAL PROGRAM, USG UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL AT THAT TIME CONSULT WITH FOREIGN PRODUCERS.

5. FOR LA PAZ: RE REFTTEL (NOTAL), DEPARTMENT KNOWS OF NO "SENATE COMMITTEE STUDY OF PROPOSAL TO AUTHORIZE GSA TO SELL ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF TIN FROM GSA STOCKPILE." POSSIBLE THAT SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION MAY HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS REPORTED ABOVE. DEPARTMENT OBSERVER AT EARINGS NOTED THAT PEDRO ZILVETI-

KEMMERT OF NEW YORK OFFICE OF CORPORATION MINERA DE
BOLIVIA (COMIBOL) ALSO OBSERVED HEARINGS, AND THAT AFTER
HEARINGSRECESSED ZILVETI INDICATED TO CHAIRMAN BENNETT
IN INFORMAL CHAT THAT HE WOULD WRITE LETTER TO SUBCOMMITTEE
OPPOSING ADDITIONAL TIN DISPOSAL AUTHORITY. DOUBTLESS
ZILVETI ALSO WILL REPORT TOCOMIBOL LA PAZ ON HEARINGS. KISSINGER

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